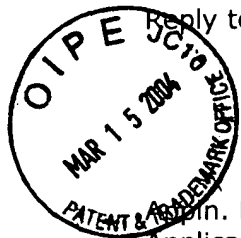


Appln. No.: 10/031,028
Amendment Dated: March 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: February 10, 2004

MAT-8217US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.: 10/031,028
Applicant: Norihiro Tsuchiya, et al
Filed: May 7, 2002
Title: VACUUM CLEANER
TC/A.U.: 1744
Examiner: Terrence R. Till
Confirmation No.: 4557
Docket No.: MAT-8217US

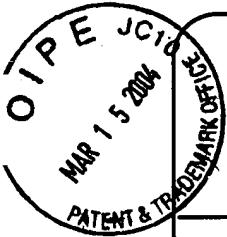
AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated February 10, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☒ **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page **2** of this paper.
- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page **3** of this paper.
- ☐ **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page _____ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- ☐ **Amendments to the Abstract** are on page _____ of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page _____ of this paper.
- ☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page **7** of this paper.



TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/031,028
	Filing Date	May 7, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Norihiro Tsuchiya, et al
	Art Unit	1744
	Examiner Name	Terrence R. Till
	Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8217US
Total Number of Pages in This Submission 9		

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/Declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Postcard
Remarks:		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual Name	Lawrence E. Ashery	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,515
Signature			
Date	March 12, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION / MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date:			
Typed or printed name	Lawrence E. Ashery	Date	March 12, 2004
Signature			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Office, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.